
NEWS RELEASE

**GEORGE W. BRINGS A TASTE OF TEXAS TO THE 2000
WASHINGTON INAUGURATIONAL BALLS WITH CELEBRITY
CHEF KENT RATHBUN, OWNER & EXECUTIVE CHEF OF
ABACUS RESTAURANT IN DALLAS, TX**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“TexMex Inaugural Style”

New York, NY January 10, 2001- Kent Rathbun, Celebrity Chef and Owner of 4 ½ Star Abacus Restaurant in Dallas, Texas, has been chosen as Executive Chef at the top 3 Inaugural Balls in Washington. Over fifteen thousand will gather at the Washington Convention Center on January 20th for the Red and Blue Balls and one thousand will gather at the Lincoln Memorial on January 18th for the Incoming Celebration Opening Ceremony Ball. What better way to celebrate the former Texas Governor’s incoming celebration as President than a Texas Size Barbecue? The menu promises to be a mixture of down-home Texas barbecue partnered with gourmet Tex-Mex creations. **(Media opportunity to attend and cover all or some of the Inaugural Balls is outlined below)**

Partnering with Kent to help prepare for the approximately 20,000 hungry inaugural goers is Eddie Deen (East Texas BBQ caterer)-a veteran of two Governor Bush inaugurations from his days in Austin. Eddie and company served his famous BBQ for 15,500 in 38 minutes. It was no doubt that the BBQ was voted “Best Inaugural Event.” This year Eddie hit the campaign trail along with the Bush’s including stops in Iowa and Super Bowl parties in New Hampshire. Most recently Eddie traveled to Philadelphia and gave the California delegation a big Texas BBQ for the National Republican Convention. His next adventure could likely be the most exciting one he’ll ever cater, both in size and importance. Eddie himself has said, “The Presidential Inauguration is a highlight for all of us. I’m sure it will be a highlight for everyone that attends as well.”

Nothing can touch Kent Rathbun’s passion for cooking...except the satisfaction it brings to all that experience his taste sensations. *The Dallas Morning News* in its four and a half star review, describes Abacus as an equation of a “beautifully lit, sensuous décor plus adventurous, imaginative cuisine multiplied by a delicate balance between formality and fun.” *The Dallas Morning News* also honored Abacus as the best new Dallas restaurant in 1999. In July 1999, *Food & Wine Magazine* honored Abacus as “one of the 10 most original, food-friendly, value-conscious new wine lists in America.” The James Beard Foundation also nominated Chef Kent Rathbun as “Best Chef of the Southwest.” Lufthansa German Airlines featured his creations during the months of November and December 2000 to First and Business flight customers as part of their Star Chef In-Flight Dining Program.

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So how does Rathbun respond when you mention his awards and reviews? “Our guests and our food have always been our first priority...we strive to bring new meaning to the old definition of Texas hospitality.” “I want everyone that experiences Abacus to feel as if they are a guest in my home,” Rathbun says. Personal service abounds within the walls of Abacus where you might choose to reserve the Chef’s Table, which places you in front of his first-class kitchen counter where Kent will fascinate you with his stories or treat you to special food tastings. “We will treat our customers in such a way they will want to return often to let us wine and dine them in our uniquely hospitable way.”

Rathbun’s achievements demonstrate how his creativity, dedication and range of delectable dishes have made him a renowned and impressive Chef in New World and Fusion cuisine. Rathbun’s gourmet delights have impressed many: Julia Child praised the meal he prepared for her; he has cooked at the James Beard House in New York on two occasions, he has repeatedly appeared as a featured chef on the TV Food Networks’ “Chef de Jour” and “Ready Set Cook” and has been featured in Southern Living Magazine, Nation’s Best Restaurants, USA Today, Food and Wine Magazine and many more.

Editor and Producer Note: If you would like more information or would like to attend one or all of the Inaugural Balls please call the names above for press credentials. Both Kent and Eddie will be available for interviews. Live remotes or in-studio appearances can be scheduled as well.

January 18, 2001	Opening Celebration Incoming Ceremony Ball Approximately 1,000 attendees and celebrities	Lincoln Memorial
January 20, 2001	Blue Ball (Texas & Wyoming Representatives & Guests of Bush and Cheney) Red Ball (Major Donors) Held in the Washington Convention Center 7:00 pm Approximately 12,000 attendees at the Blue Ball Approximately 4,500 attendees at the Red Ball	

All Inaugural Balls are Black Tie